

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission  
Report - March 2006

CHAPTER 2.1.1.

EPIZOOTIC HAEMATOPOIETIC NECROSIS

Article 2.1.1.1.

For the purposes of the *Aquatic Code*, epizootic haematopoietic necrosis (EHN) means infection with ~~the viral species~~ EHN virus (EHNV) ~~in~~ of the genus *Ranavirus* of the family Iridoviridae.

Methods for surveillance and diagnosis are provided in the *Aquatic Manual*.

Article 2.1.1.2.

**Susceptible species Scope**

~~The recommendations in this Chapter apply to For the purposes of the *Aquatic Code*, susceptible species for EHN are: redfin perch (*Perca fluviatilis*) and rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*). These recommendations also apply to any other susceptible species referred to in the *Aquatic Manual* when traded internationally.~~

~~Suspected cases of natural infection with EHNV in species other than those listed in this Article should be referred immediately to the appropriate OIE Reference Laboratory, whether or not clinical signs are associated with the findings.~~

Article 2.1.1.3.

**Commodities**

- 1) When authorising importation or transit of the following ~~commodities (under study)~~, *Competent Authorities* should not require any EHN related conditions, regardless of the EHN status of the *exporting country, zone or compartment*:
  - a) From the species in Article 2.1.1.2., for any purpose:
    - i) commercially-sterile canned fish;
    - ii) leather made from fish skin.
  - b) The following commodities destined for human consumption from the species referred to in Article 2.1.1.2. which have been prepared in such a way as to minimise the likelihood of alternative uses:
    - i) chemically preserved products (e.g. smoked, salted, pickled, marinated, etc.);

- ii) Heat treated products (e.g. ready prepared meals, fish oil) that have been heat treated in a manner to ensure the inactivation of the pathogen;
  - iii) eviscerated fish (chilled or frozen) packaged for direct retail trade;
  - iv) fillets or cutlets (chilled or frozen);
  - v) dried eviscerated fish (including air dried, flame dried and sun dried).
- e) For species other than those in Article 2.1.1.2., all aquatic animal products.

For the commodities referred to in point 1b), Member Countries should consider introducing internal measures to prevent the commodity being used for any purpose other than for human consumption.

- 2) When authorising importation or transit of the following commodities of a species referred to in Article 2.1.1.2., other than those listed in point 1) of Article 2.1.1.3., Competent Authorities should require the conditions prescribed in Articles 2.1.1.7. to 2.1.1.11. relevant to the EHN status of the *exporting country, zone or compartment*.
  - a) *aquatic animals;*
  - b) *aquatic animal products.*
- 3) When considering the importation or transit of any live commodity of a species not referred to in Article 2.1.1.2. not listed above from an *exporting country, zone or compartment* not declared free of EHN, *Competent Authorities* of the *importing country* should conduct an analysis of the risk of introduction, establishment and spread of EHN and the potential consequences associated with importation of the *commodity*, prior to a decision. The outcome of this assessment should be made available to the exporting country. The exporting country should be informed of the outcome of this assessment.

#### Article 2.1.1.4.

### EHN free country

A country may make a self-declaration of freedom from EHN if it meets the conditions in points 1), 2), 3) or 4) below.

If a country shares a zone or compartment ~~water catchment~~ with one or more other countries, it can only make a self-declaration of freedom from EHN if all the areas covered by the shared water are declared EHN free countries or zones (see Article 2.1.1.5.).

- 1) A country where none of the susceptible species ~~species listed in Article 2.1.1.2.~~ is present may make a *self-declaration of freedom* from EHN when *basic biosecurity conditions* have been met continuously in the country for at least the past 2 years.

OR

- 2) A country where the species referred to in Article 2.1.1.2. are present but there has never been any observed occurrence of the disease for at least the past 25 years despite conditions that are conducive to its clinical expression, as described in Chapter X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual*, may make a *self-declaration of freedom* from EHN when *basic biosecurity conditions* have been met continuously in the country for at least the past 10 years.

OR

- 3) A country where the last observed occurrence of the disease was within the past 25 years or where the infection status prior to *targeted surveillance* was unknown, for example because of the absence of conditions conducive to clinical expression, as described in Chapter X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual*, may make a *self-declaration of freedom* from EHN when:
- a) *basic biosecurity conditions* have been met continuously for at least the past 2 years; and
  - b) *targeted surveillance* as described in Chapters 1.1.4. and X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual* has been in place for at least the last 2 years without detection of EHN.

OR

- 4) A country that has made a *self-declaration of freedom* from EHN but in which the disease is subsequently detected may not make a *self-declaration of freedom* from EHN again until the following conditions have been met:
- a) on detection of the disease, the affected area was declared an *infected zone* and a *buffer zone* was established; and
  - b) infected populations have been safely destroyed or removed from the *infected zone* by means that minimise the risk of further spread of the disease, and the appropriate *disinfection* procedures (see *Aquatic Manual*) have been completed; and
  - c) *targeted surveillance*, as described in Chapters 1.1.4. and X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual*, has been in place for at least the last 2 years without detection of EHN.

In the meantime, one or more areas of the remaining territory may be declared free zones, part of the non-affected area may be declared a free zone provided that they meet the conditions in point 3) of Article 2.1.1.5.

Article 2.1.1.5.

### **EHN free zone or free compartment**

A *zone* or *compartment* within the *territory* of one or more countries not declared free from EHN may be declared free by the *Competent Authority(ies)* of the country(ies) concerned, if the *zone* or *compartment* meets the conditions referred to in points 1), 2), 3) or 4) below.

If a *zone* or *compartment* extends over more than one country, it can only be declared an EHN free *zone* or *compartment* if all the *Competent Authorities* confirm that the conditions have been met.

- 1) A *zone* or *compartment* where none of the susceptible species ~~species listed in Article 2.1.1.2.~~ is present may be declared free from EHN when *basic biosecurity conditions* have been met continuously in the *zone* or *compartment* for at least the past 2 years.

OR

- 2) A *zone* or *compartment* where the species referred to in Article 2.1.1.2. are present but there has never been any observed occurrence of the disease for at least the past 25 years despite conditions that are conducive to its clinical expression, as described in Chapter X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual*, may be declared free from EHN when *basic biosecurity conditions* have been met continuously in the *zone* or *compartment* for at least the past 10 years.

OR

- 3) A *zone* or *compartment* where the last observed occurrence of the disease was within the past 25 years or where the infection status prior to *targeted surveillance* was unknown, for example because of the absence of conditions conducive to clinical expression, as described in Chapter X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual*, may be declared free from EHN when:
  - a) *basic biosecurity conditions* have been met continuously for at least the past 2 years; and
  - b) *targeted surveillance* as described in Chapters 1.1.4. and X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual* has been in place for at least the last 2 years without detection of EHN.

OR

- 4) A *zone* previously declared free from EHN but in which the disease is detected may not be declared free from EHN again until the following conditions have been met:
  - a) on detection of the disease, the affected area was declared an *infected zone* and a *buffer zone* was established; and
  - b) infected populations have been safely destroyed or removed from the *infected zone* by means that minimise the risk of further spread of the disease, and the appropriate *disinfection* procedures (see *Aquatic Manual*) have been completed; and
  - c) *targeted surveillance*, as described in Chapters 1.1.4. and X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual*, has been in place for at least the last 2 years without detection of EHN.

## Maintenance of free status

A country, *zone* or *compartment* that is declared free from EHN following the provisions of points 1) or 2) of Articles 2.1.1.4. or 2.1.1.5., as relevant, may maintain its status as EHN free provided that *basic biosecurity conditions* are continuously maintained.

A country, *zone* or *compartment* that is declared free from EHN following the provisions of point 3) of Articles 2.1.1.4. or 2.1.1.5., as relevant, may discontinue *targeted surveillance* and maintain its status as EHN free provided that conditions that are conducive to clinical expression of EHN, as described in Chapter X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual*, exist and *basic biosecurity conditions* are continuously maintained.

However, for declared free *zones* or *compartments* in infected countries and in all cases where conditions are not conducive to clinical expression of EHN, *targeted surveillance* needs to be continued at a level determined by the *Competent Authority* on the basis of the likelihood of **reinfection**.

### Article 2.1.1.7.

## Importation of live animals from a country, zone or compartment declared free from EHN

When importing live *aquatic animals* of the species referred to in Article 2.1.1.2. from a country, *zone* or *compartment* declared free from EHN, the *Competent Authority* of the *importing country* should require an *international aquatic animal health certificate* issued by the *Competent Authority* of the *exporting country* or a *certifying official* approved by the *importing country*, certifying that, on the basis of the procedures described in Articles 2.1.1.4. or 2.1.1.5. (as applicable), the place of production of the consignment is a country, *zone* or *compartment* declared free from EHN.

The certificate **shall should** be in accordance with the Model Certificate in Appendix 6.1.1. No. 1 given in Part 6. of this *Aquatic Code*.

This Article does not apply to *commodities* referred to in point 1) of Article 2.1.1.3.

### Article 2.1.1.8.

## Importation of live animals for aquaculture from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from EHN

When importing, for *aquaculture*, *aquatic animals* of the species referred to in Article 2.1.1.2. from a country, *zone* or *compartment* not declared free from EHN, the *Competent Authority* of the *importing country* should assess the risk and apply risk mitigation measures such as:

- 1) the consignment is delivered directly into and held in *quarantine* facilities; and
- 2) the imported *aquatic animals* and their first generation progeny are continuously isolated from the local environment; and
- 3) all effluent and waste material are treated in a manner that ensures inactivation of EHNV.

This Article does not apply to commodities referred to in point 1) of Article 2.1.1.3.

#### Article 2.1.1.9.

### **Importation of live animals for processing ~~and/or~~ for human consumption from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from EHN**

When importing, for processing ~~and/or~~ for human consumption, *aquatic animals* of the species referred to in Article 2.1.1.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from EHN, the *Competent Authority* of the *importing country* should require that ~~assess the risk and apply risk mitigation measures such as:~~

- 1) the consignment is delivered directly to and held in *quarantine* facilities for ~~a short period before slaughter and processing to one of the products referred to in point 1) of Article 2.1.1.3. or other products authorised by the *Competent Authority*;~~ and
- 2) all effluent and waste material **from the processing** are treated in a manner that ensures inactivation of EHNV.

This Article does not apply to *commodities* listed in point 1) of Article 2.1.1.3.

#### Article 2.1.1.9.bis

### **Importation of live animals intended for use in animal feed, or for agricultural, industrial or pharmaceutical use from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from EHN**

When importing, for use in animal feed, or for agricultural, industrial or pharmaceutical use, *aquatic animals* of the species referred to in Article 2.1.1.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from EHN, the *Competent Authority* of the *importing country* should require:

- 1) the consignment is delivered directly to and held in *quarantine* facilities for slaughter and processing to products authorised by the *Competent Authority*; and
- 2) all effluent and waste material **from the processing** are treated in a manner that ensures inactivation of EHNV.

This Article does not apply to *commodities* referred to in point 1) of Article 2.1.1.3.

#### Article 2.1.1.10.

### **Importation of products from a country, zone or compartment declared free from EHN**

When importing *aquatic animal products* of the species referred to in Article 2.1.1.2. from a country, zone or compartment free from EHN, the *Competent Authority* of the *importing country* should require an *international aquatic animal health certificate* issued by the *Competent Authority* of the *exporting country* or a *certifying official* approved by the *importing country* certifying that, on the basis of the procedures described in Articles 2.1.1.4. or 2.1.1.5. (as applicable), the place of production of the consignment is a country, zone or compartment declared free from EHN.

The certificate ~~shall~~ **should** be in accordance with the Model Certificate in Appendix 6.2.1. No. 2 given in Part 6. of this Aquatic Code.

This Article does not apply to *commodities* referred to in point 1) of Article 2.1.1.3.

Article 2.1.1.11.

### **Importation of products from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from EHN**

When importing *aquatic animal products* of the species referred to in Article 2.1.1.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from EHN, the *Competent Authority* of the *importing country* should assess the risk and apply appropriate risk mitigation measures.

In the case of dead fish, whether eviscerated or uneviscerated, such risk mitigation measures may include:

- 1) the consignment is delivered directly to and held in facilities for processing to one of the products referred to in point 1) of Article 2.1.14.3. or other products authorised by the Competent Authority; and
- 2) all effluent and waste material are treated in a manner that ensures inactivation of EHN.

This Article does not apply to *commodities* referred to in point 1) of Article 2.1.1.3.